Foreign Minister of Norway Mr. Borge Brende arrives at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Norwegian delegation arrives Nay Pyi Taw

A delegation led by Mr. Borge Brende, Foreign Minister of Norway, arrived Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.

The Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs was welcomed at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by U Kyaw Zeya, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mrs. Tone Tinnes, Norwegian Ambassador to Myanmar and officials.—Myanmar News Agency ■

A foreign veterinary student vacinnates a goat. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN NAING**

Foreign veterinary students vaccinate cattle in fieldwork

Students of veterinary medicine from Southeast Asia, the United States, Canada, and Japan have conducted fieldwork in Myingyan Township, Mandalay Region and administered vaccinations to the local livestock and dogs in the area. They have also planted trees for reforestation efforts.

The programme is part of the ASEAN Veterinary Volunteer Project 2017. The group of students are led by Dr. Ye Htut Aung, Deputy Professor of the University of Veterinary Science (Yezin) and Dr. Tanu Pinyopummintr, the Associate Dean of Kasetsart University. The group will hold educational seminars, perform cattle and rabies vaccinations, give medicine to get rid of parasitic worms, perform needed surgeries on animals and plant long-living trees, among other projects in Lethit, Thityone, Zeepinkan and Laydan villages in Myinchan township.—U Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan) ■

JMC-U to send Verification Teams to Shan State

Union Joint Monitoring Committee-JMC-U will send its verification teams to Shan State before September to probe into killing of a militia leader and two armed clashes between the Tatmadaw and Restoration Council of Shan State-RCSS in Mongpyin.

The decision comes at its three-day meeting starting on 3rd July in Yangon.

At the 11th meeting, participants discussed several issues including formation of Verification Teams, Standard Operating Procedures-SOPs and works of the state-level Joint Monitoring Committees-JMC-S.

Local-level Joint Monitoring Committees-JMC-L has been formed in Langkho, and further committees will be formed in Papun and Bawkali in Kayin State before August, according to participants of the meeting.

The 11th meeting of the Union Joint Monitoring Committee held in Yangon. **PHOTO: PHOE HTAUNG**

The participants approved two parts of SOP: how the international organizations can help and can cooperate with JMC and directives for making relations between JMC and international organizations.

"We also discussed the issue related with the internally displaced persons. The three groups in the JMC agreed to observe the rehabilitation and resettlement of IDPs and will discuss works for joint coordination teams in next meetings," said Daw Hsai Pan, the executive director of the technical supporting committee of the JMC.—Ye Khaung Nyunt ■

Immigrant fatally stabbed in Maungtaw Tsp

An undocumented immigrant who was visiting his wife in Maungtaw was stabbed to death yesterday by several attackers, according to Myanmar News Agency.

Muster Armurt, who was illegally staying in Zawmatet village in Maungtaw Township, was attacked by five men armed with knives in a field in the village at about 4 am and suffered stab wounds in his neck, back and right leg. He was pronounced dead at a local hospital at about 5am.

The man, Muster Armurt was arrested in 2001 and was repatriated in 2013 to Bangladesh when he worked in another country. He was visiting his wife in Thayay Gone Tann village in Maungtaw.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Two villagers missing in Maungtaw

Two men from Thaechaung Village in Maungtaw Township have been missing since Sunday, according to local police.

Naing Win, also known as Jiaman, and Anu Hamad left in a car belonging to Naing Win at 10am on Sunday and did not return home. During a search for the two men, family members found the car abandoned near a football ground. The two men are still missing and an police investigation is continuing.—Myanmar News Agency

Myanmar, Thailand negotiate to solve migrant . . .

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The original decree was issued in part to tackle human trafficking concerns raised by the international community, Deputy Prime Minister Wissanu Krea-ngam told reporters on Tuesday.

Despite the delay of the decree, undocumented workers are still returning to their home countries in droves.

Even as more and more migrant workers return home due to harsher labour law enforcement by Thai authorities, Ranong border gate officials allow only 100 people per day to cross the border. This has caused many Myanmar migrants to struggle to find enough food and lodging while waiting to cross back into Myanmar.

It is estimated that about 5 million Myanmar nationals are working in Thailand and of them, about 2,200,000 have proper documents, Union Minister U Thein Swe said. Meanwhile, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Mr Filippo Grandi held talks with Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday over accepting the Myanmar migrant workers who returned of their own volition from Thailand.

For those undocumented Myanmar workers who remain in Thailand, churches and affiliated organisations have been helping those who face difficulties returning home.

The Diocesan Social Action Center (DISAC) in Phuket is providing assistance to Myanmar migrant workers who want to go home but cannot.

DISAC is sending Myanmar migrant workers who do not have an employment permit to Ranong through Phuket. The association then sends them to Kawthoung in Myanmar, said an official from the DISAC.

Currently, DISAC has already sent about 400 Myanmar migrant workers to the Kawthoung through Ranong as of yesterday.— GNLM (Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung) also contributed to this storty) ■